

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01565 020758Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10

NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06 /062 W

-----085931 021217Z /10

R 020431Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2571

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1565

UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FORMER GOVERNOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN KERR AS  
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO

REF: CANBERRA 1030

1. PRIME MINISTER FRASER ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY,  
MARCH 2, THAT SIR JOHN KERR HAS DECIDED NOT TO SERVE AS  
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO.

2. KERR'S DECISION RESULTED FROM THE CONTINUING CNTRO-  
VERSY IN AUSTRALIA OVER HIS APPOINTMENT, THE ALMOST  
UNANIMOUS PRESS OPPOSITION TO IT, AND BY SHARP ALP ATTACKS IN  
PARLIAMENT. KERR, IN HIS MESSAGE TO FRASER, STRESSED THE  
DIVISIVE EFFECTS HIS APPOINTMENT HAD IN AUSTRALIA AND THE  
POTENTIAL DETRIMENTAL EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON THE OFFICE  
OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL AS REASONS FOR HIS DECISION.

3. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER PRIME MINISTER FRASER FORCED  
KERR'S RESIGNATION OR NOT. HOWEVER, THE STRENGTH OF  
PUBLIC, PRESS, AND PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION CLEARLY  
SURPRISED THE PRIME MINISTER.

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ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014